

GUIRAGOS SHEKERDJIAN: A
SURVIVOR'S STORY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to memorialize and record a courageous story of survival of the Armenian Genocide. The Armenian Genocide, perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1923, resulted in the death of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children. As the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau documented at the time, it was a campaign of "race extermination."

The campaign to annihilate the Armenian people failed, as illustrated by the proud Armenian nation and prosperous diaspora. It is difficult if not impossible to find an Armenian family not touched by the genocide, and while there are some survivors still with us, it is imperative that we record their stories. Through the Armenian Genocide Congressional Record Project, I hope to document the harrowing stories of the survivors in an effort to preserve their accounts and to help educate the Members of Congress now and in the future of the necessity of recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

This is one of those stories (submitted by Angel Shekerdjan):

My father, Guiragos, was born in 1905 in Adana, Turkey. He was 4 years old in 1909, when the massacres started in Adana. Several Armenians took refuge in the church; so did his pregnant mother with her 2-year-old daughter and little Guiragos. The Turks surrounded the church and set it to fire. As the people inside realized what was happening, they started running outside. So did my grandmother, carrying the toddler in her arms and holding my father by the hand. As soon as they were outside, a Turk killed her and the little girl. And he stabbed my father 3 times in the back—two stabs as the sign of the cross and a 3rd stab—all around the spine. A "good-hearted" Turk saw that the Turk who was stabbing was aiming again, stopped him saying: "leave the child, he is already dead." However, instead of leaving him to die, the "good" Turk took him to a hospital. Once he recovered from his wounds, they asked my dad what his name was. He said it was Guiragos. And the last name? He did not know. So they asked what the profession of his father was. My father told them that his father used to make candy, lolipops. . . . So they gave him the name of Shekerdjian, meaning make of sugar. 'Sheker' is 'sugar' in Turkish. He was sent to an orphanage. He eventually ended up in Beirut, where he met my orphaned mother, also from Adana.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARINE
AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE
ENERGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2010

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Marine and Hydrokinetic Renewable Energy Promotion Act of 2010, a bill to promote the development of renewable en-

ergy from our oceans and rivers, using the tides, currents, waves and even the thermal properties of our oceans to generate electricity. I also want to acknowledge the work of Chairman BRIAN BAIRD, my friend and Washington state colleague, who joins me in introducing this important legislation.

This bill will bolster research and development in marine renewable energy, to ensure the industry overcomes existing barriers to deployment so that our ocean and tidal currents can deliver power to homes and businesses in American communities. Improved federal research programs are key to meeting our long-term energy security and climate mitigation goals, and creating American jobs in the marine hydrokinetic industry.

A study by University of Washington, Virginia Tech Advanced Research Institute, and Electric Power Research Institute that was published in HydroReview stated that marine renewable resources could yield 51,000 MW of power—equivalent to 34 conventional coal-fired power plants. Yet at this time, our nation's commitment to this technology lags behind countries in Europe and Asia.

In Washington state, the private sector, universities, research institutions and public utilities are already working to bring affordable, reliable and abundant electricity to major urban load centers located near Puget Sound. But these, and similar efforts across the country, need national support in order to truly realize the benefits of commercial-scale marine hydrokinetic projects in the United States.

This bill will expand the renewable energy research and development program at the U.S. Department of Energy, so that Americans do not lose out on the global race to create and manufacture marine renewable energy technologies. To do so, the bill creates a competitive demonstration grant program to test technologies, devices and systems at a variety of scales to facilitate commercial application. The environmental research program established in this bill will also help us best monitor the environmental impacts of these projects, to help disseminate information on ways to identify and avoid any negative environmental impacts to protect our marine environment. Additionally, the bill will expand a Department of Energy research program to set up MHK test facilities in the United States, which are critical in our efforts to demonstrate a wide range of technologies, and evaluate the technical viability of each new and emerging type of technology at different scales.

In closing, I also want to thank the expert staff on the Science and Technology Subcommittee on Energy and Environment for their extensive knowledge of this issue and hard work. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this bill, and hope that we can work together to move it towards passage as soon as possible.

IN HONOR OF MARGARET WONG,
RECIPIENT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL
"SALUTING THE DREAMER" AWARD

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Margaret Wong, internation-

ally known immigration attorney from Cleveland, Ohio, as she is honored by the Cleveland Public Library as the first recipient of the "Saluting the Dreamers" Award.

As a young woman, Ms. Wong settled in Cleveland, Ohio, journeying here from her Chinese homeland. She studied in Cleveland and eventually became a practicing attorney. For more than twenty-five years, Ms. Wong has developed Margaret W. Wong and Associates, LPA, into a law firm known throughout the United States and the world for its expertise in immigration law. Currently, she co-chairs the Immigration Law Committee for the National Asian Pacific Bar Association, and she is chair of the Cleveland Bar Association's Immigration Law Section.

Ms. Wong has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including Cleveland Magazine's "Most Interesting People" award and the 1997 Creative Philanthropy Award from the Women's Community Foundation. Ms. Wong was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame in 2000.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ms. Margaret W. Wong of Margaret W. Wong and Associates, LLP, upon being named the first recipient of the "Salute the Dreamers" Award presented by the Cleveland Public Library. Ms. Wong's great success as attorney and business owner continues to inspire us to follow our dreams, and to achieve our dreams.

COMMENDING EYECARE AMERICA

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1226, recognizing the 25th anniversary of EyeCare America, the public service program of the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Founded in 1985, EyeCare America's mission is to reduce avoidable blindness and severe visual impairment by raising awareness about eye disease and care, providing free health education materials and facilitating access to medical eye care.

EyeCare America has programs for seniors, glaucoma, diabetes and children.

In 2010, EyeCare America celebrates its 25th anniversary and across our nation, nearly 7,000 ophthalmologists volunteer their services to this worthwhile public service program.

Approximately, 35 million Americans experience an age-related eye disease, including age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, and cataracts, with this number expected to grow to 50 million by 2020.

Vision impairment and eye disease is a major public health issue, especially as 2010 begins the decade in which more than half of the 78 million Baby Boomers will turn 65 and be at greatest risk for aging eye disease.

EyeCare America works to ensure that eye health is not neglected, by matching eligible patients with one of nearly 7,000 volunteer ophthalmologists across the country committed to preventing unnecessary blindness in their communities.